ambit by identifying them as "National Rivers" to tap their potential for hydro-power and irrigation;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry's proposal has been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no proposal to bring any river under Central ambit by identifying it as National River. Government has already enacted Inter-State Water Dispute Act in 1956 for adjudication of water disputes and amended the same in 2002 for time bound adjudication of the disputes and the Act is now called Inter State River Water Dispute Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

Damage to water bodies

96. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government is aware of the damage caused to the traditional inland water bodies like tanks and ponds due to neglect throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken by Government to revitalize them; and

(c) whether Government would formulate a National Policy for revitalizing the inland water bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per 3rd Minor Irrigation Census, some of the Water Bodies/Tanks have fallen into disuse due to silting, poor maintenance, encroachment, etc.

(b) Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India approved a Pilot Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture during 2004-05 in 15 States. Under the scheme, the Government has approved 1098 Water Bodies for 26 district projects in 15 States at an estimated cost of Rs.. 299.92 crore. Some States have also taken up projects for restoration of water bodies with World Bank assistance. The Ministry of Environment and Forest also sanctioned proposals for conservation of 52 Lakes at an estimated cost of Rs. 687.52 crore.

(c) The National Water Policy, 2002 has laid due emphasis on planning, development and management of water resources. The policy also states that the resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by various means which *inter alia* includeds modernization and rehabilitation of existing tanks.

Funds allocated under Accelerated Irrigation Programme

t97. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission have allocated Rs. 125 crores under the Accelerated Irrigation Programme during the year 2007-08;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi